Unutilised funds for teachers' training and education

3409. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of non-utilisation of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, BE allocation for strengthening of Teachers Training Institutes and National Council of Teachers Education were around 32 per cent and 13 per cent, as well as 27 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively;

(b) if so, the percentages of non-utilisation in 2001-2002 in case of these two programmes;

(c) what are the reasons for such non-utilisation; and

(d) whether Government propose to meet the targets of teachers' training with reduction of around 15 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, in BE 2002-2003 for these two programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The percentage of non-utilisation in 2001-2002 is 22 per cent under the Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education and 25 per cent in NCTE. The non- utilisation of amount provided in the BE is due to (i) the fact that activities such as teacher training and research are also being funded under the District Primary Education Programme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (ii) availability of unspent balance with the State and UT Governments under the scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education and also with NCTE (iii) delays in construction works undertaken in the scheme and (iv) delay in preparation of appropriate proposals by State Governments.

(d) Teacher training is being funded under DPEP and SSA in 2002-2003. Hence there will be no fund constraint in meeting targets. With unspent amount lying with the State and UT Governments and also with NCTE, the reduction in BE 2002-2003 may not affect the activities and the programmes during the year.

Professor Emeritus

3410. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC confers professor emeritus upon some academicians;

(b) if so, what is the criteria followed for this; and

(c) the details of those granted this professorship, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR.(SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by UGC, the scheme is intended to utilize the services of highly qualified and experienced superannuated teachers in universities, colleges and institutions approved under Sections 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act without any restriction of position or pay scales and who have been actively engaged in research and teaching programmes of the UGC in the preceding years to enable them to pursue active research in their respective fields of specialization.

The fellowship will be available for a period of two years or upto the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. The eligibility will be based on the previous contributions to research and publications of the applicants. The applicants will be required to send their best two publications/research papers for evaluation to the experts alongwith their request. The number of fellowships awarded per year depend on the grants available. No extension under the scheme is admissible and hence the proposal should be such that it is possible to complete it under the scheme.

(c) The details of those selected during the last three years is as follows:—

1999-2000	107
2000-2001	100
2001-2002	78

Banning the use of children as soldiers

3411. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not taken any decision so far regarding the United Nations Treaty for banning the use of children as soldiers, a major violation of human rights;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the United Nations Treaty; and

(d) how many countries have agreed to implement the same?